

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10, and 17-19 as shown below, in which deletions are indicated by strikethrough and/or double brackets, and additions are indicated by underscoring. Please add new claims 20 and 21. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). ~~A rear grip apparatus for~~

In a personal watercraft of the type having a deck and a seat on the deck, the improvement comprising a said rear grip apparatus provided for placement on the watercraft behind the seat and for being grasped by a passenger, said rear grip apparatus comprising:

a body member comprising a substantially U-shaped rail portion extending from an area proximate a left rear portion of the seat to an area proximate a right rear portion thereof, said body member having a U-shaped or an H-shaped cross section and comprising a sculpted recessed portion with an opening formed therein which faces upwardly; and

a grip face member separate from said body member, said grip face member operatively attached to said body member and for placement covering said sculpted recess thereof.

Claim 2 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip face member fits nestingly into the opening of said sculpted recessed portion.

Claim 3 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip face member is a product of an injection molding process.

Claim 4 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip face member has slip-resistant textured irregularities formed on at least a portion thereof.

Claim 5 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip face member comprises a center section and two integrally formed reinforcing ribs extending downwardly at opposite side edges of said center section.

Claim 6 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sculpted recessed portion of said body member has a tapered cross-sectional shape.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body member further comprises a generally U-shaped rail portion which includes the sculpted recessed portion therein, and a bridge portion connecting opposed legs of the rail portion and extending substantially horizontally therebetween to define a generally A-shaped member.

Claim 8 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip face member has a plurality of substantially tubular integral bosses on the underside thereof, to receive fasteners therein.

Claim 9 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein said grip face member has a plurality of holes formed therein to facilitate attachment to the body member.

Claim 10 (currently amended). ~~A rear grip apparatus for~~

In a personal watercraft of the type having a deck and a seat on the deck, the improvement comprising a said rear grip apparatus provided for placement on the watercraft behind the seat and for being grasped by a passenger, said rear grip apparatus comprising:

a body member comprising a substantially U-shaped rail portion extending from an area proximate a left rear portion of the seat to an area proximate a right rear portion thereof, said rail portion comprising a sculpted recessed portion with an opening formed therein which faces upwardly; and

a grip face member separate from said body member, said grip face member operatively attached to said body member and for placement covering said sculpted recess thereof;

wherein said grip face member is a product of an injection molding process, and has slip-resistant textured irregularities formed on at least a portion thereof.

Claim 11 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 10, wherein said grip face member comprises a center section and two integrally formed reinforcing ribs extending downwardly at opposite side edges of said center section.

Claim 12 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 10, wherein said sculpted recessed portion of said body member has a tapered cross-sectional shape.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The rear grip apparatus of claim 10, wherein said body member further comprises a generally U-shaped rail portion which includes the sculpted recessed

~~portion therein, and~~ a bridge portion connecting opposed legs of the rail portion and extending substantially horizontally therebetween to define a generally A-shaped member.

Claim 14 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 10, wherein said grip face member has a plurality of substantially tubular integral bosses on the underside thereof, to receive fasteners therein.

Claim 15 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 10, wherein said grip face member has a plurality of holes formed therein to facilitate attachment to the body member.

Claim 16 (original). The rear grip apparatus of claim 10, wherein said grip face member fits nestingly into the opening of said sculpted recessed portion.

Claim 17 (currently amended). ~~A rear grip apparatus for~~ In a personal watercraft of the type having a deck and a seat on the deck, the improvement comprising a said rear grip apparatus provided for placement on the watercraft behind the seat and for being grasped by a passenger, said rear grip apparatus comprising:

a body member comprising a sculpted recessed portion with an opening formed therein which faces upwardly; and

a grip face member separate from said body member for placement covering said sculpted recess thereof;

wherein said grip face member fits nestingly into the opening of said sculpted recessed portion;

wherein said body member comprises a generally U-shaped rail portion extending from an area proximate a left rear portion of the seat to an area proximate a right rear portion thereof,
~~which~~ wherein said rail portion includes the sculpted recessed portion therein, and a bridge portion connecting opposed legs of the rail portion to define a generally A-shaped member;
and wherein said grip face member is a product of an injection molding process, and has slip-resistant textured irregularities formed on at least a portion thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The rear grip apparatus of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein said grip face member comprises a center section and two integrally formed reinforcing ribs extending downwardly at opposite side edges of said center section.

Claim 19 (currently amended). The rear grip apparatus of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein said sculpted recessed portion of said body member has a tapered cross-sectional shape.

Claim 20. (new). The rear grip apparatus of claim 1, wherein the grip face member extends about a rear portion of the seat, adjacent to a side edge thereof.

Claim 21. (new). The rear grip apparatus of claim 17, wherein the grip face member extends about a rear portion of the seat, adjacent to a side edge thereof.